(b) if so, what steps Government are taking/propose to take to redress their complaints; and

(c) what is Government's spectrum policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Various telecom operators have been demanding additional spectrum. Their demands for spectrum are being met, from time to time, taking into account spectrum availability and various existing operations, as well as the policy guidelines and stipulations in their service Licence Agreements.

(c) The radio frequency spectrum being a scarce natural resource has to be used efficiently, optimally and rationally in the overall national interest. Toward this objective, the Government's spectrum policy endeavours to cater to various conflicting demands on the spectrum including those of emerging technologies as well as to protect existing operations. The current National Frequency Allocation Plan, which came into effect on 1 st January, 2002, gives the broad framework of the spectrum policy and is available on the website of the Department of Telecommunications *www. dotindia. com* since beginning of 2002. An exercise has been initiated to determine whether additional spectrum can be made available for telecommunications.

Contribution of Non-Profit Organisations

*496. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Prof it Organisations employ about 20 million people as paid staff or volunteer staff; and

(b) whether Government propose to support the Non-Profit Organisations in their activities and maintain a data of their activities for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Government is aware that the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a Delhi based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has carried out a broad survey of Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) engaged in development activities in the

country. Based on this study it is estimated that about 20 million persons work on a paid or volunteer basis in these NPOs.

(b) It has been the standing policy of the Government to encourage growth of NPOs and to support their activities in all aspects of socioeconomic and cultural development. Accordingly, financial support is provided to NPOs from time to time by the Government for which necessary provisions are made in the annual budget of the Central and the State Governments. The maintenance of database of NPOs/NGOs has been initiated in the Planning Commission in coordination with the concerned agencies under the Central and State/UT Governments in pursuance of a recent decision of the Committee of Secretaries.

Allocation of foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh

*497. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat allocated to Himachal Pradesh from the Central Pool from 1999-2000 to date under the Central Welfare Scheme, year-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that allocation is utilized for the welfare schemes only and not diverted to black market?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Scheme-wise allocation of foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh under various Welfare Schemes between 1999-2000 and 2002-03 and the information available, district-wise, from the authorities concerned are given in the Statement-I to IV *{See* below).

Welfare Schemes are implemented by the Nodal Ministries and the concerned Departments of the State Governments and UT Administrations who have set up supervision and monitoring mechanisms to prevent misappropriation/misutilization of the allotted foodgrains. As and when specific complaints are received, Teams are deputed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to tour the areas in question. The irregularities pointed out by the Teams are brought to the notice of the State Government for immediate remedial action. No matter relating to diversion of allocated foodgrains in Himachal Pradesh has so far come to notice.